

Amendments to the Claims:

1. **(Original)** A gas laser oscillator comprising:
a discharge tube for exciting laser gas;
a laser gas passage connected to the discharge tube;
laser gas circulation means for circulating the laser gas in the laser gas passage as well as in the discharge tube; and
a permeable screen plate provided at a position of the laser gas passage.

2. **(Original)** The gas laser oscillator of claim 1, wherein:
the laser gas circulation means is provided at a position of the laser gas passage; and
the screen plate is provided between the laser gas circulation means and the discharge tube.

3. **(Currently amended)** The gas laser oscillator of claim ~~1~~ or 2, wherein the screen plate is meshed.

4. **(Original)** The gas laser oscillator of claim 3, wherein the following inequalities are satisfied:

$$6.0 \times 10^4 < Q \times P < 1.5 \times 10^6$$

$$D/\lambda < 10$$

$$A/\lambda < 10^{-2}$$

$$0.2 < B/S < 0.7$$

where Q (m³/min) is a mass flow rate of the laser gas, P (Pa) is a pressure of the laser gas, λ (mm) is a wavelength of a compression wave in the laser gas that results from pressure fluctuation, D (mm) is an inside diameter of the laser gas passage in the vicinity of the screen plate, A (mm) is a mesh diameter of the screen plate, S (mm²) is a total sectional area of the screen plate, and B (mm²) is a total mesh area of the screen plate.

5. **(Currently amended)** The gas laser oscillator of claim ~~1~~ or 2, wherein the screen plate includes a plurality of holes.

6. **(Original)** The gas laser oscillator of claim 5, wherein the following inequalities are satisfied:

$$6.0 \times 10^4 < Q \times P < 1.5 \times 10^6$$

$$D/\lambda < 10$$

$$A/\lambda < 10^{-2}$$

$$0.2 < B/S < 0.7$$

where Q (m³/min) is a mass flow rate of the laser gas, P (Pa) is a pressure of the laser gas, λ (mm) is a wavelength of a compression wave in the laser gas that results from pressure fluctuation, D (mm) is an inside diameter of the laser gas passage in the vicinity of the screen plate, A (mm) is a diameter of each of the holes, S (mm²) is a total sectional area of the screen plate, and B (mm²) is a total hole area of the screen plate.

7. **(Currently amended)** The gas laser oscillator of claim ~~1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6~~, wherein the screen plate is joined to the laser gas passage by an elastic member.

8. **(Currently amended)** The gas laser oscillator of claim ~~1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7~~, wherein the laser gas circulation means is formed of a blower.

9. **(New)** The gas laser oscillator of claim 6, wherein the screen plate is joined to the laser gas passage by an elastic member.

10. **(New)** The gas laser oscillator of claim 6, wherein the laser gas circulation means is formed of a blower.